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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated. (Information requested.)

**STEEL MILL WORK CURTAILED
BY FAULTY MOLDS AND TRANSPORT**

HUNDOAR, METALLURGICAL WORKS -- Wata Sinicala, No 454, 5 Mar 49

The Kuznetsk Metallurgical Works began on the March production quota in February -- the rolling mill on 12 February, the steel mill on 17 February, the electric furnace for special steels on 19 February. The blast furnace plant fulfilled its quota by 28 February.

Activity of the Siemens-Martin steel mill was greatly curtailed by lack of oxygen, which was needed to cut large pieces of scrap iron, and by having only one loading crane, the other being under repair.

Difficulties with ingot molds have been solved quantitatively if not qualitatively. On 16 February, the steel mill received 52 ingot molds from the casting department. At the first pouring, 24 molds burst, and at the second pouring six of the remaining 28 molds became useless. An ingot mold should be good for 54 charges, but since the beginning of January a mold has averaged only 15 charges. This means that 89 kilograms of molds are necessary for one ton of steel. Consequently the cost of steel is higher than it should be. It is recommended that composition and condition of molds be given intensive studies.

The internal transportation problems also present difficulties. Delays in bringing cars loaded with scrap iron and ore result in much wasted time at the steel mill. The Rumanian Railway assigns cars to the rolling mill at 0500, but it is often 1700 before these reach loading platforms. Due to faulty organization of the transport system within the plant, it sometimes takes 2 or 3 days for cars to reach the proper plant location.

Ore needed to charge the blast furnaces is not in the plant bunkers, even though the hopper at Ghelar is full of siderite and the mine is blocked with carloads of ore.

Solution to the transportation problem lies in replacing the unqualified and disaffected personnel in the planning and transport sections.

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INCREASED PRODUCTION OF MANGANESE AND CHROMIUM ORES -- Viata Sindicals, No 454, 5 Mar 49

Rich deposits of manganese ores, which appear in lenticular form, have been discovered during recent mining operations. The February production quota for manganese ore has been surpassed 48 percent at the Filimon Sarbu mine in the Vatra Dornei region and 45.6 percent at the Arsita mine.

Production of chromium ore was 91 percent above the February production quota.

NEW GRANITE DEPOSITS FOUND -- Rieczpospolita, [Polish], No 47, 17 Feb 49

Large deposits of granite have been discovered near Ukty in the Olstyn Wojewodstwo. Equipment for crushing granite will soon be installed. The crushed rock, previously brought in from Slask, will be used for road repair.

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